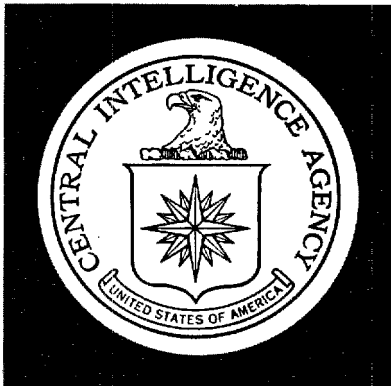


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Chile-USSR: Soviet representatives apparently are finding the Chileans less responsive than in the period immediately after the re-establishment of diplomatic relations in 1964.

Members of the 37-man Soviet mission in Santiago recently expressed concern over their lack of contacts in government and other non-Communist circles, as well as in the local diplomatic corps. Particular weak spots the Soviets mentioned are the Chilean legislature, foreign office, and military establishment. Members of all these groups responded favorably to overtures from former Ambassador Anikin, an urbane diplomat who left Chile in February 1968.

Soviet trade and aid credits of \$57 million, available since January 1967, have never been utilized. A high Chilean official last week ascribed this delay to the public's lack of interest in Soviet products and to the requirement that repayment be made in hard currency.

The Chileans may believe that for the present they have made a sufficient show of independence from the US by accepting sizable diplomatic missions from Communist countries and that nothing is to be gained immediately from closer relations.

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